

今回は英文コラムです。文意をしっかりとつかみましょう。
What do you think is most important when learning a second language? Is it having a good teacher? Talent? A chance to use the latest technology? More important than factors like those is motivation.

Imagine two situations. One, Teacher A is the greatest teacher in the world but her class of 20 students is completely unmotivated. They don't care about learning English at all. Two, Teacher B is the worst teacher in the world but her class of 20 students is highly motivated. Which class will learn more? I think Teacher B's class will learn more. Even if the material is too easy or too difficult, the B class students will find a way to learn.

The Key Ingredient for Learning English

But not all kinds of motivation are created equally. The two kinds of motivation are extrinsic—the motivation that comes from outside a person—and intrinsic—motivation that comes from inside a person. Which do you think is better? Let me explain each in greater detail first.

Extrinsic motivation comes from outside sources. A good example is a student who wants high test scores to satisfy her parents. This student wants her parents to praise her; she wants her teacher to acknowledge her effort in front of the class. Knowing that others will treat her kindly makes the student study harder. The desire to win an award or someday get a good job are also examples of extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation, on the other hand, comes from within a person. Maybe a student plans to study abroad, enjoys learning foreign languages, or just wants to improve his English for his own satisfaction. Even if no one else notices his improved English, he will still study hard.

Although both extrinsic and intrinsic motivation can lead to better learning results, intrinsic is considered better. What happens when the favorite teacher of an extrinsically motivated student is replaced by someone the student finds less interesting? The extrinsically motivated student will lose his motivation. The same thing will happen to students who stop receiving praise, stickers, or gold stars. Extrinsic motivation methods might work for a little while, but in the long run, they fail.

As you might imagine, it's a little harder for a person to become intrinsically motivated. And there is not as much a teacher can do to help a student become intrinsically motivated. One key is curiosity. Curiosity is the desire to know and to learn. Curious students tend to be more motivated than students who don't care.

Attitude can also help a person become intrinsically motivated. A student with the right attitude will look for the enjoyable aspects of an activity instead of focusing on aspects he doesn't like. Making goals helps as well.

Please find as much motivation as you can so you can learn a language more proficiently and enjoy using the language sooner. The power to become more motivated is in your hand and in your heart!